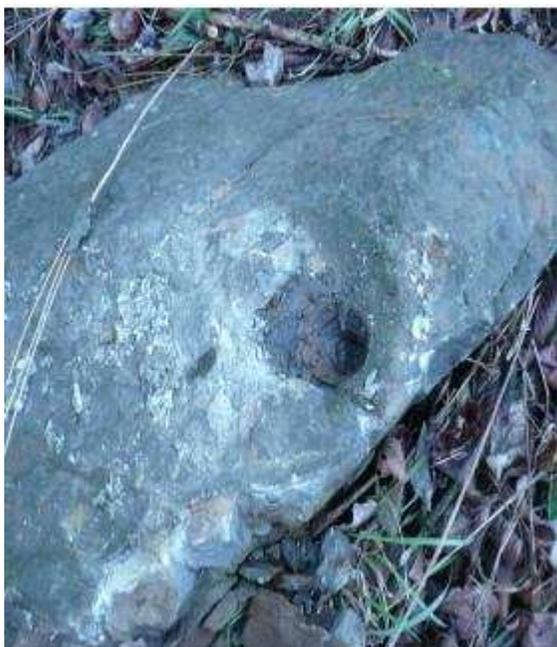


Fossil Trip April 9, 2011
by Sandy Lyon



The Northern Virginia Club invited others to a fossil hunting field trip near Wolf Gap, VA and Sam and I attended. In total, over 20 people attended including a 5 year old and a well acclaimed 15 years old fossil identifier named Alec Brennen.

We met the group at I-81 and Rt 42 at Woodstock, VA. The weather was nice, the roadside where we stopped had amply parking, and the people were cordial!



The first rock I broke open also had a nice totally in tact brachiopod. My fossil sniffing husband immediately climbed the cliff of loosely packed shale and starting finding several 1.5 " brachiopods. These fossils are within the Mahantango Formation. We stayed there until we thought the rock above was just a tad unstable.



Across the road was a nice creek and others were finding crinoids and horned coral. The largest horned coral, pictured left, was found by Mary from the No. Va Club. With help splitting the 2 foot boulder that it was in, she secured both parts of the fossil.

I on the other hand was checking out the feasibility of kayaking in the creek! Larry Kerston , from the Kentucky Club, who lives in West Va. shared some quartz from Arkansas, two types of coral and gastropods found near Bardstown, Kentucky.

We stayed at this site till noon then explored another site in W. Va, just a few miles away, in search of trilobites. After some patience, we found samples perfect for my micromount collection! Alec identified them at lace trilobites. There were also small crinoids in the shale. The trip ended about 2 or 2:30 as folks departed for home.

We thanked Ted for opening up his trip to us and other clubs. Pictures will be emailed to him for the rest of the group.

